

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Draft Wild Turkey Management Plan – August 2005 – June 2010

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Mick Cope
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501
360-902-2691
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4. Date checklist prepared:

7/1/05

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The Draft Wild Turkey Management Plan is a proposed amendment to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Game Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (Copies of this plan can be obtained at the WDFW headquarters office in Olympia (Wildlife Management Program, 5th floor, Natural Resources Building 1111 Washington Street SE) or downloaded from the WDFW website at the following address: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/management/>). The first draft of the Wild Turkey Management Plan was released on April 11th for a 30-day public review period. At the time of release, WDFW mailed a notification to over 800 individuals and organizations, including those listed in Table 1 below). In addition, the first draft was provided to the Upland Game Advisory Committee (a WDFW advisory committee made up of interested citizens appointed by the Director) for their review and comment. It was also posted to the WDFW web site and a WDFW news release was sent out to all Washington media outlets (print, radio and television) on April 13. Comments were received and addressed. Changes were made to the plan based on the comments received. The current draft will be posted to the WDFW web site and copies will be sent to all counties, tribes and resource agencies statewide. In addition, there will be a news release announcing a 30-day review period that will be sent out to all media outlets, and a postcard sent to those who received notice of the first draft. The proposed implementation dates of the Wild Turkey Management Plan are August 2005 through June 2010.

Table 1. Agencies, tribes or major stakeholder groups who received draft copies of the Wild Turkey Management Plan during the first review period.

Citizens for Washington Wildlife	County Commissioners (e.g., Okanogan, Yakima)
Department of Agriculture	Department of Natural Resources
Humane Society of the United States	Inland Northwest Wildlife Council
National Audobon Society (and WA state chapters)	National Wild Turkey Federation
Northwest Ecosystem Alliance	Private Industrial Timberland Owners (e.g., The Campbell Group)
Progressive Animal Welfare Society	Safari Club International
Suquamish Tribe	The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society	USDA Forest Service
US National Parks Service	Various sportsmen's organizations
Washington Cattlemen's Association	Washington Forest Protection Association
Washington State Federation of Humane Society	Washington Wildlife Federation
Western Washington Wildlife Council	Yakama Indian Nation

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

This is a 5-year management plan, which will be updated and modified in June 2010. Some activities described in the plan will continue into future editions of the plan, but it is likely that new activities will be added. Future activities (e.g., habitat enhancement, population monitoring, and population management activities similar to those identified in the current draft plan) will undergo SEPA review at that time.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

This proposal is an amendment to the following document:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2003. Game Management Plan. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington, USA.

(Copies of this plan can be obtained at the WDFW headquarters office in Olympia (Wildlife Management Program, 5th floor, Natural Resources Building 1111 Washington Street SE) or downloaded from the WDFW website at the following address: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/management/>)

In addition, there is much scientific research that has been reviewed and used in the drafting of the proposed management plan. This literature is listed in the "Literature Cited" section of the proposed plan.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

There are no pending applications affecting this proposal.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

No permits or approvals are known at this time. Any planned wildlife enhancement projects will be subject to appropriate environmental review as required by state and federal law.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Wild turkeys have been introduced into Washington since the early 1900's and have been classified as a game bird since the early 1930's. Since 1960, when the first wild-trapped turkeys were introduced into the state from Arizona, New Mexico, and Wyoming, turkeys have maintained naturally reproducing populations in much of the forested portions of eastern and southwestern Washington. Through time, wild turkeys have been managed on a year-to-year basis without a formal plan to guide management activities. This proposal will create the first statewide management plan for wild turkeys in Washington.

The overall objective of this proposal is to document past management activities and provide clear direction on future management strategies for wild turkeys in Washington. Specific management objectives identified in the plan include:

- Improve wild turkey population monitoring by conducting harvest and/or non-harvest surveys on a yearly basis.
 - Conduct yearly management activities designed to establish and manage self-sustaining populations of wild turkeys in the most suitable areas of Washington.
 - Initiate, participate in, or support research projects that increase our knowledge of wild turkeys in western habitats.
 - Implement effective nuisance/damage management strategies to help resolve issues as they arise.
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- Conduct habitat improvements in key wild turkey management areas to accomplish multiple goals including addressing nuisance issues, improving public recreational opportunities, and improving habitat conditions for multiple species.
 - Increase fall hunting opportunities where existing nuisance issues warrant expanded hunting opportunity.
 - Develop a set of criteria that, when met, would direct a change in season structure or hunting opportunity.
 - Increase the number of acres of private land available for public turkey hunting by 10% within the wild turkey management area.
 - Create educational pamphlets and news releases describing past management activities and future management objectives on a yearly basis.
 - Concentrate efforts on illegal harvest, public education, and landowner relations during appropriate times of the year.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

This management plan directs wild turkey management on a statewide basis.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

NA

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

NA

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

NA

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

NA

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

NA

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

NA

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

NA

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

NA

2. **Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Exhaust from vehicles used to participate in hunting have minimal significant impact, and would have no greater impact on ambient air quality than general or other recreational vehicle use.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

NA

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

NA

3. **Water**

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

NA

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

NA

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

NA

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

NA

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

NA

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

NA

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

NO

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

NA

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

NA

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

NA

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

NA

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- ☒ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
☒ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
☒ shrubs
☒ grass
☒ pasture
☒ crop or grain
☒ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
☒ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
☐ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Strategies identified in Chapter Three of the proposed plan do not specifically identify the kind and amount of vegetation that will be altered. In general, habitat improvement projects for wild turkeys involve improving riparian zone vegetation, increasing densities of mast producing shrubs and trees, and increasing the density and diversity of grasses and forbs.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Since this is a statewide proposal, there is not a specific site to evaluate, however, if any were found, mitigation measures would be identified.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: NA

5. **Animals**

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

All exist within the state.

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Since this is a statewide proposal, there is not a specific site to evaluate. The following is a list of the terrestrial animal species that are threatened or endangered.

Terrestrial State Threatened Species

ALEUTIAN CANADA GOOSE	<i>BRANTA CANADENSIS LEUCOPAREIA</i>
BALD EAGLE	<i>HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS</i>
FERRUGINOUS HAWK	<i>BUTEO REGALIS</i>
MARbled MURRELET	<i>BRACHYRAMPHUS MARMORATUS</i>
SAGE-GROUSE	<i>CENTROCERCUS UROPHASIANUS</i>
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	<i>TYMPANUCHUS PHASIANELLUS</i>
LYNX	<i>LYNX CANADENSIS</i>
STELLER SEA LION	<i>EUMETOPIAS JUBATUS</i>
WESTERN GRAY SQUIRREL	<i>SCIURUS GRISEUS</i>

Terrestrial State Endangered Species

NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG	<i>RANA PIPIENS</i>	Amphibian
OREGON SPOTTED FROG	<i>RANA PRETIOSA</i>	Amphibian
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN	<i>PELECANUS ERYTHORHYNCHOS</i>	Bird
BROWN PELICAN	<i>PELECANUS OCCIDENTALIS</i>	Bird
SANDHILL CRANE	<i>GRUS CANADENSIS</i>	Bird
SNOWY PLOVER	<i>CHARADRIUS ALEXANDRINUS</i>	Bird
SPOTTED OWL	<i>STRIX OCCIDENTALIS</i>	Bird
UPLAND SANDPIPER	<i>BARTRAMIA LONGICAUDA</i>	Bird
MARDON SKIPPER	<i>POLITES MARDON</i>	Butterfly
OREGON SILVERSPOT BUTTERFLY	<i>SPEYERIA ZERENE HIPPOLYTA</i>	Butterfly
BLACK RIGHT WHALE	<i>BALAENA GLACIALIS</i>	Mammal
COLUMBIAN WHITE-TAILED DEER	<i>ODOCOILEUS VIRGINIANUS LEUCURUS</i>	Mammal
FISHER	<i>MARTES PENNANTI</i>	Mammal
GRAY WOLF	<i>CANIS LUPUS</i>	Mammal
GRIZZLY BEAR	<i>URSUS ARCTOS</i>	Mammal
KILLER WHALE	<i>ORCINUS ORCA</i>	Mammal
PYGMY RABBIT	<i>BRACHYLAGUS IDAHOENSIS</i>	Mammal
WOODLAND CARIBOU	<i>RANGIFER TARANDUS</i>	Mammal

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

NA

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The proposed plan enhances wild turkey populations and may improve habitat quality for other wildlife that utilize the improved habitat identified in the plan.

6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

The major source of energy consumption associated with the implementation of the plan will be gasoline or diesel fuel used in vehicles.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

NO

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

NA

7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

NO

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

NONE

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

NA

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

NA

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Noises associated with turkey hunting will be present during the spring (approximately April 15 – May 15) and in the fall (approximately Sept. 25 – Oct 15). These noises (vehicle traffic and gun shots) will be heard from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour past sunset. In most areas, the noise will not differ from existing levels as a result of plan implementation.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Proposed management activities will take place on private and public lands that support appropriate habitat.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Some areas within the primary wild turkey management area have been used for agricultural purposes. The most common are grazing and hay production, although some areas have supported annual crop production.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

NA

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

NO

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

This is a statewide plan and as such will be implemented across a variety of zoning classifications that support appropriate habitat.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

NA

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

NA

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Some environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands) may be present in areas where turkey management activities are proposed, however, existing research does not indicate turkeys as having a negative impact on these habitats.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

NA

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

NA

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

NA

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

NA

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

NA

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

NA

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

NA

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

NA

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

NA

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

NA

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

NA

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

NA

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

NA

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

NA

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Recreation opportunities include, but are not limited to hunting, fishing, camping, bicycle riding, ORV riding, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and general sight seeing. Since the plan is of statewide nature, it is difficult to list all forms of recreation that take place.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

NO

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

NA

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

As this is a statewide proposal, there is no specific site to evaluate.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

As this is a statewide proposal, there is no specific site to evaluate.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

NA

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

NA

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

NA

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

NA

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

NO

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

NA

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

The number of vehicular trips created by the proposed plan is unknown. The number of trips will likely be similar to those that existed before the plan.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

NA

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

NO

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

NA

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

NA

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

NONE

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Original signed by Mick Cope

Date Submitted: 7/1/05

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

The proposed plan would not likely increase discharges to water, emissions to air, or increases in toxic or hazardous substances. The level of noise associated with hunting should not substantially increase due actions associated with the proposed plan.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

NA

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

The existing conditions and significant planned population changes are detailed in the proposed plan. The existing conditions are described extensively in Chapter Two. To summarize Chapter Two, turkeys currently exist in about half of the state's Game Management Units with particular emphasis on those units that have adequate food, forest cover and water availability combined with appropriate elevation, rainfall, and snowfall. Existing research does not show that wild turkeys have a significant population level impact on other animals or birds.

Plans for habitat improvements that may impact plant communities are identified under the habitat section of Chapter Three. Strategies identified in this section of the plan call for identification of key areas for habitat improvement and implementation of habitat improvement projects. Specific concerns related to protection of important or rare plants were not identified while drafting the current proposal. Land managers such as WDFW, Department of Natural Resources, and the U. S. Forest Service often protect rare plants by using exclusionary fences, regulations, and/or signs. These direct measures are considered most effective for protecting important plant resources. Existing research has not identified wild turkeys as a threat to rare or endangered plant species. Any planned wildlife habitat enhancement projects will be subject to appropriate environmental review as required by state and federal law.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

NA

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The main use of energy or natural resources will be by vehicles associated with hunting and with habitat improvement projects.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

None

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Strategies identified in the proposed management plan should not affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated for governmental protection. Existing research does not show that wild turkeys have a significant population level impact on plants or other animals or birds.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

NA

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Strategies in the proposed plan should not affect land or shoreline use.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

NA

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Strategies in the proposed plan should not increase demands on transportation or public services or utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

NA

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

Strategies in the proposed plan should not conflict with local, state or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.